

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 8, 2016**

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**THE WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN** held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Town Hall, 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Gavin Brown  
Aldermen Gary Caldwell  
Alderman Julia Freeman  
Alderman Jon Feichter  
Alderman LeRoy Roberson

The following staff members were present:

Mike Morgan, Interim Town Manager  
Woodrow Griffin, Town Attorney  
Phyllis Rogers, Acting Town Clerk

The following media representatives were present:

Mary Ann Enloe, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gavin Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and called attention to the One Stop Voting in Haywood County on the calendar March 3 – 12.

2. Adoption of February 23, 2016 Minutes

***Alderman Roberson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Caldwell, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

**B. PRESENTATION**

3. Connect NC Public Improvement Bond Presentation/Discussion Barbara Parker, President, Haywood Community College

Barbara Parker, Haywood Community College President, was in attendance to share information about Connect NC which will be on the ballot March 15, 2016. The Connect NC Bonds Act is a \$2 billion bond package that citizens across the state will vote on in the primary election March 15, 2016. North

Carolina leadership, including the Governor, General Assembly and UNC Board of Governors, have approved this bond referendum to support needed statewide capital improvements in education, parks, public safety, recreation, plant sciences, agriculture and water and sewer infrastructure. More than two-thirds of the Connect NC bond will go to fund critical improvements in higher education, including capital projects that focus on STEM education, career readiness, medical sciences and business for the 17 UNC System campuses along with long-needed upgrades to modernize the state's 58 community colleges. Projects span from the mountains to the coast and include investments in both rural communities and urban cities, across 76 counties in total. No tax increases would be necessary to finance the bond, given the state's strong revenue growth and ample debt service capacity.

Ms. Parker provided some information for the Board and asked them to also help to educate others. First page the focus is Community College. This two billion dollar bond is to be on the ballot with 350 million dollars to go to North Carolina's fifty-eight community colleges. There would be no impact with the AAA rating and no new taxes. Some bond debt is close to being retired in NC, so the debt services would be used with no need for any new taxes.

The average age of buildings at Haywood Community College is 36 years, with a construction date of 1979. The oldest building is 47 years old and there are some renovation and construction needs. HCC's Board has committed this money toward renovation of existing space, and the College currently has several needs. If the Bond is passed, 2.8 million dollars would be used for Haywood Community College. The information distributed to the Board shows all the things this money would support if the bond is passed. The largest project is at Western Carolina University, a school that many residents in this region have attended. Some of the other projects include National Guard Facilities, Sewer and Water infrastructure, NC State Parks, with the nearest including Chimney Rock Park. One of the questions Ms. Parker has been asked is why HCC gets such a small amount of money. In trying to find the answer she found that the General Assembly developed a formula which weighted on the commerce tier designation in 2015. Haywood County's tier designation in 2015 was a 3. This year it is a 2, which does not help Haywood County with the money impact with this bond. Ms. Parker asked the Board to pass this information along to others in the community. Alderman Freeman asked how this bond compares with the ¼ cent sales tax. Ms. Parker said two projects at HCC are being paid for out of this tax money. The approval of this bond would be a nice shot in the arm in addition to the sales tax.

Mayor Brown said there is bipartisan support for this bill. The Legislature has looked at this closely and they are also in favor. The bond monies are to be spread out across the state. Haywood County received this designation as a tier 3 which is good. A committee is currently reviewing the tier system to see if it can be tweaked. Mayor Brown added that he is proud of this community.

***Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Freeman, to adopt a resolution of support for the Connect NC Public Improvement Bond as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. Parker for attending the meeting to speak to the Board and share this information.

**C. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

4. Interim Town Manager – Mike Morgan

Budget Update

Manager Morgan reported that the budget is currently underway and department heads are working on their parts. Finance Director Eddie Caldwell and he are beginning their review.

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Town Manager Hiring Process

Two RFP's have been received to date regarding the town manager hiring process. Manager Morgan also contacted everyone to make sure the proposals they were sent have been received.

Greenhill Cemetery Spring Cleanup

Town staff will be doing some spring cleaning at Greenhill Cemetery in approximately one month. Bushes and shrubs have become overgrown and are taking over some of the burial plots. These will need to be removed and/or trimmed. If shrubs, etc., have been planted in memory of someone, and are removed, town staff can give the family clippings if they would like. Town staff will do their best with the cleanup, but it does need to be done. Some flowers have been there for quite some time and need to be removed. Information will be placed on the Town's website and distributed to the news media. Mayor Brown asked if a sign could also be posted at the cemetery. Manager Morgan said that would be appropriate. He added that the historic designation for Greenhill Cemetery is moving forward and the application for this designation should be completed by mid- April.

Elysinia Avenue Water Line Replacement Project

Manager Morgan reported that this project is moving along and the water line should be completed by the end of this week. Everything except pavement should be completed by the end of March. The paving company should be open in April so that the street can then be repaved.

Alderman Freeman spoke with the crew working on this project and they feel that they are past the issue of the river rock, which has been a complication with the project. Manager Morgan said he has also spoken to residents and business owners in the area and they are working with the town. Once this project is completed they will have a new road, water line and sewer line which should last for many years. This project will also add additional fire protection with new hydrants and increased water supply. Alderman Freeman added that this project connects to Hazelwood Avenue. A structure fire on Hazelwood Avenue in 2000 resulted in the loss of one of the businesses, Connie's Kitchen. The added water pressure as a result of this project will make a difference if a future fire occurs.

**D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD**

5. Mayor Brown

Affordable Housing – Mountain Projects

Patsy Dowling with Mountain Projects is putting together information on affordable housing and asking that all towns in Haywood County participate on behalf of this task force. Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director with the Town of Waynesville, is helping to suggest people being proposed to be included in this project. Waynesville will be engaged in this project.

Farmer's Market Second Location

Carol James came to Mayor Brown about two months ago to talk about the farmer's market. She mentioned that she would like to establish a second location, suggesting the parking lot on Hyatt Creek road next to Wal-Mart. This property is owned by the Haywood Advancement Foundation and is mostly located in the floodway. Ms. James is considering making a proposal to locate a second farmer's market at this location. Town staff is engaged at discussing this with her.

**E. CALL ON THE AUDIENCE**

Jim Bothwell presented information to the Board of Aldermen regarding the West Waynesville Condominium Association, Inc. Mr. Bothwell attended a previous meeting with questions regarding utility billing. Mayor Brown asked Mr. Bothwell if he was satisfied his discussion with Finance Director Eddie Caldwell regarding this issue. Mr. Bothwell said he was very pleased with Mr. Caldwell's response and explanation on how to read and understand the electric bills. Mayor Brown expressed appreciation for Mr. Bothwell's comments, adding that Finance Director Eddie Caldwell is a good town employee.

**F. ADJOURN**

***With no further business, Alderman Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Alderman Feichter, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.***

ATTEST

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Gavin A. Brown, Mayor

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Michael J. Morgan, Interim Town Manager

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Amanda W. Owens, Town Clerk

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Minutes submitted by  
Phyllis Rogers, Acting Town Clerk